

Message Text

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46

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SAM-01 EAE-00 CPR-01 NSC-05

PA-01 SS-15 USIA-06 PRS-01 /046 W

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P 102030Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2345

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP, CH, US

SUBJECT: PRC EMBASSY COMMEMORATION OF DEATH OF CHAIRMAN MAO

REFERENCE: STATE 223128

1. I SIGNED BOOK OF CONDOLENCE AT CHINESE EMBASSY THIS MORNING.

2. ALTHOUGH NO GENERAL INVITATION OTHER THAN A TV ANNOUNCEMENT HAD BEEN RECEIVED, I HAVE ENJOYED INCREASINGLY FRIENDLY PERSONAL RELATIONS WITH AMBASSADOR LI CHAO PUTATIVE DEAN DIPLOMATIC CORPS.

3. PROCEDURE WAS UNUSUALLY FORMAL. BESIDES AMBASSADOR, INTERPRETER AND WIFE, EIGHT OFFICERS ON HAND IDENTICALLY DRESSED IN BLACK WITH MOURNING ARMBANDS AND WHITE FLOWERS (ARTIFICIAL) IN BUTTONHOLE. EXCEPT WHEN SHAKING HANDS THEY STOOD AT ATTENTION WITH HEADS BOWED AND EXPRESSION OF GRIEF. AFTER BEING MET AT ENTRANCE I WAS ESCORTED TO SEPARATE BUILDING, LARGE HALL, DRAPED WITH BLACK CREPE ON OUTSIDE. AMBASSADOR LED ME TO BOOK AND, AFTER SIGNING, TO THE EDGE OF RUG AT MIDDLE OF HALL, AT FAR END OF WHICH WAS LARGE PHOTO OF CHAIRMAN ALSO DRAPED IN CREPE. ON RIGHT OF RUG AMBASSADOR'S WIFE AND SIX OFFICERS STOOD IN ROW, HEADS BOWED. AFTER SHORT PERIOD OF SILENT PRAYER, I SHOOK HANDS WITH

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WIFE AND OTHER OFFICERS AND WAS TAKEN BY AMBASSADOR

TO DOOR, WHERE I EXPRESSED CONDOLENCES AND SHORT EULOGY
OF CHAIRMAN. AMBASSADOR APPEARED VISIBLY MOVED AND
THANKED ME EMOTIONALLY FOR COMING.
GERARD

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Message Attributes

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